

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.
Endorsed as a deductible Gift recipient

ABN 77 687 118 554
INC. A0042386U

JANUARY, 2004
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ASBESTOS NEWS

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ARE YOUR FEES DUE?

If so, please pay our Treasurer

G.A.R.D.S Committee wishes all its member's and friends a very Prosperous, Safe and Happy New Year for 2004.

We hope to see all our supporters back early in the New Year



LARGER OFFICE SPACE FOR G.A.R.D.S AT BUSINESS CENTRE

Due to the increased business that GARDS committee has been doing we have seen the need to find a bigger office area to work from.

The management of the Latrobe Business Centre have offered GARDS another office within the centre, which will give us more space in which to operate. We are hoping to move into this new office space in the next month or so. Our phone number, fax and address will remain the same.



INTERNATIONAL POWER HAZELWOOD TO THE RESCUE

We would like to thank the management at International Power Hazelwood for their generous donation of office equipment in preparation to our new larger office space. We can assure International Power Hazelwood that the equipment will be put to good use. Thank you for your kindness. This will certainly make our work a lot more efficient in helping our cause.



ASBESTOS BANNED IN ALL AUSTRALIAN WORKPLACES

The Australia-wide ban on all new uses of asbestos & materials containing asbestos started on the 31st of December, 2003. It is illegal under the laws of each state & territory to use, re-use or sell any products containing asbestos, including automotive brake pads & gaskets.

The same prohibition applies in the Australian government sector & it will be complemented by a Customs regulation banning imports & exports.

The ban will not apply to asbestos products & materials that are already in place. But when they are replaced, non-asbestos alternatives must be used.

Any stockpiles of asbestos-containing products must be safely disposed of under the applicable state & territory regulations.

The few exemptions to the ban are restricted in scope & will operate for a limited time. They only apply where there are much greater risks to safety if asbestos is not used. Protection from exposure is still required in these cases.

If you require more information, visit the latest news on NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMISSION web site at www.nohsc.gov.au

MISSED CHANCE: ON THE REVIEW OF LUNG FUNCTION PROGRAM

G.A.R.D.S. feels that the government has had a missed opportunity to properly address the asbestos situation in Latrobe Valley by not expanding the eligibility to include all asbestos exposed former power industry workers.

We are disappointed in what came out of the announcements on Wednesday 17th December, 2003 as the review pointed out the short comings of the LFP but that program is still going to continue with a few minor adjustments.

The Government has been formulating a response for the last 4 months and there was no community participation in formulating this. In the announcements there was no mention of how the community were going to participate in the recommendations made.

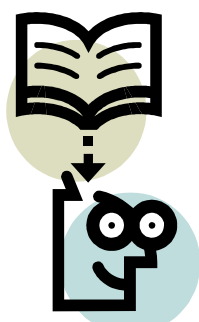
There was no mention in the government's media announcements of funding for any of the recommendations that came out of the Lung Function Review and further there was no mention or idea of how this was all going to work and come together.

G.A.R.D.S. agreed in part with the recommendations by the head researcher Professor Don Campbell but the government have made no promises on how these will be implemented. No time lines were drawn for specific recommendations or who will be responsible for these.

G.A.R.D.S. now wants to know when these recommendations are going to be implemented.

How will we know if it ever starts or if it is successful????

If you would like to read the final document there is a copy available in the GARDS office for your perusal.



LURGI GAS PLANT DEMOLITION

For sometime, residents, trade unions and community groups have protested for the demolition and clean up of the site of the Lurgi Gas Plant.

GARDS have visited the area and it is surrounded by a cyclone fence and is overgrown with weeds.

The State Government, as the responsible owner of the premises, have announced that they will call for tenders for the demolition of the site.

We understand that the tender has been filled by a company.

The factory site contained toxic chemicals of all kinds including asbestos.

We will be vigilant of the project and maintain that the asbestos & other toxic chemicals be removed safely and in accordance with the current regulations.

Gippsland Trades and Labour Council have said that before the demolition takes place an audit of all chemicals that were on the site should be obtained. There also needs to be full consultation with community and unions.

GARDS was pleased to receive the news that Gippsland Trades & Labour Council agreed unanimously at a meeting in December to fully support and work with GARDS in their endeavours on asbestos issues.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – COLLEEN LUX

Colleen Lux will be at both our meetings on 17th & 24th of Feb. She is a graduate student at the University of Montana, USA in Environmental Studies. Her graduate research has focused primarily on the widespread tremolite asbestos exposure to miners, their families, & residents of Libby, Montana. Colleen's master's thesis focused on the community group which was organised by the Environmental Protection Agency to give voice to the Libby community during the Superfund clean up & remediation of homes & properties. Colleen is coming to speak about the hardships that the people of Libby, Montana have had to face with asbestos.

DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

For the information of GARDS members who live in Latrobe City

Owners/Occupiers of residential premises within the municipality may dispose of small quantities (under 3 cubic metres) of asbestos at the Morwell Landfill on Saturdays at 11am by prior appointment only with 48 hours notice required.

Telephone Rod Shields 0439 957 019 for appointments and queries at Latrobe City.

The asbestos is to be securely wrapped in two layers of 0.2mm thick plastic and sealed with adhesive tape. Unwrapped or inappropriately wrapped loads will not be accepted. Loads should be restricted to a size that may be carried by one person.

Commercial asbestos contractors cannot have access to Morwell Landfill.

Commercial asbestos may be deposited at Dutson Downs or Lyndhurst Landfill asbestos disposal facilities

If you live in Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire, East Gippsland Shire, South Gippsland Shire or Wellington Shire we have copies of their tipping arrangements available in the office



G.A.R.D.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 27th, 2004

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Latrobe Business Centre, Darlimurla Ave, Newborough

All positions will become vacant

NOMINATIONS FORMS FOR ALL POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY:

GARDS WEB SITE: www.gards.org

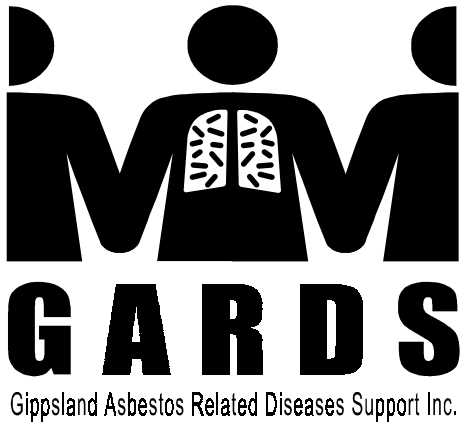
GARDS OFFICE IN HOURS

MAILED BY REQUEST

Phone: 51281218

All nominations must be returned to The Returning Officer, R LeLievre, PO Box 296, Newborough. 3825, 7 days prior to the AGM

Please Note: Only financial members are eligible to vote.



Gippsland Asbestos Related
Diseases Support Inc.

36 – 38 Darlimurla Ave
Newborough, Vic. 3825

PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

Phone: 51281218
Fax: 51261897

Email: info@gards.org

Web site: www.gards.org

GARDS INC. SUPPORT

GARDS provides support and information to asbestos sufferers, their families and carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone advice service, and drop-in service at GARDS office.

GARDS INC. Support also conducts a monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; GARDS Support is open to anyone whose lives have been affected by asbestos, their families and the general public.

GARDS INC. EVENING MEETING

GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings which are conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

These meetings provide a focal point for information sharing and problem identification. The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos sufferers, their families and the general public. Thus ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our environment of asbestos products.

ABOUT G.A.R.D.S. INC.

Committee of Management

President:

Lyle Seear – Ph. 51671376

Vice President:

Trevor Callow – Ph. 51342208

Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton – Ph. 51278219

Treasurer:

Pam Nicholson – Ph. 51275843

Member:

Fay Needham – 51272038
Dorothy Roberts - 51274174

G.A.R.D.S. FEES

Joining Fee - \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioners/Concession/
Unemployed - \$3.00

Employed persons - \$11.00

MEETINGS:

Support: Last Tuesday of
month, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Evening: 3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm – 9.30pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Our Night/Day Meetings

Feb 17th & Feb 24th

GUEST SPEAKER - COLLEEN LUX
FROM MONTANA USA

March 30th - 1.30pm

GUEST SPEAKER - STEVEN BENEDICT
ASBESTOS ADVISER

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9.30am – 12 noon
TUESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
WEDNESDAY: 1.00pm – 3.30pm
THURSDAY: 12 noon – 3.00pm
FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

CALL IN FOR A CHAT & CUPPA

G.A.R.D.S. SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2004
1.30PM – 3.30PM

Meetings are held at Latrobe Business Centre,
36 – 38 Darlimurla Avenue, Newborough

- Tuesday 24th February
- Tuesday 30th March
- Tuesday 27th April
- Tuesday 25th May
- Tuesday 29th June
- Tuesday 27th July
- Tuesday 31st August
- Tuesday 28th September
- Tuesday 26th October
- Tuesday 30th November

Christmas Break-up to be advised

G.A.R.D.S. NIGHT MEETINGS FOR 2004

7.30PM – 9.30PM

These meetings are held at the centre

- Tuesday 17th February
- Tuesday 16th March
- Tuesday 20th April
- Tuesday 18th May
- Tuesday 15th June
- Tuesday 20th July
- Tuesday 17th August
- Tuesday 21st September
- Tuesday 19th October
- Tuesday 16th November

Christmas Break-up to be advised

**G.A.R.D.S. INC.
WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THESE SPONSORS &
SUPPORTERS**



Loy Yang B Power Station

